

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the present Amendment, Claims 35, 48, 57, 59, and 60 have been canceled without prejudice, thus leaving Claims 34, 36-47, 49-56, and 58 currently pending. Claims 34, 47, 54, and 55 have been amended.

Claims 40-46 are allowed, and Claims 35, 48-49, 55, and 57 are indicated to be patentable in subject matter, although objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims.

Claims 34, 36, 38, 47, 50-51, 53-54, and 58 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), or as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), based on DE 3030233 to Steiner. Claim 56 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Steiner in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,980,693 to Liang.

Response to Rejections

Applicant first notes that the Office Action contains some erroneous assertions with respect to the teachings of the prior art. Steiner is alleged to teach a support body formed of plastic (Office Action, p. 4), but in fact Steiner describes his press shoe as being rubber (p. 5, second paragraph, last line).

Applicant appreciates the allowance of Claims 40-46 and the indication of allowability of Claims 35, 48-49, 55, and 57. To expedite allowance of the present application, Applicant has amended Claim 34 to include the features of Claim 35, Claim 47 to include the features of Claim 48, and Claim 54 to include the features of Claim 57. Accordingly, Claims 34, 47, and 54 are in condition for allowance, as are all claims dependent thereon.

Conclusion

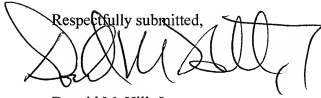
Based on the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for immediate allowance.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this

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paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald M. Hill, Jr.', written over the typed name.

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